

# McLeish: Viet-Nam Policy Altered

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Nine hundred of the Western world's leading book publishers heard a prominent American poet express fears yesterday that recent American action in North Viet-Nam and Santo Domingo may have altered a lifetime appreciation of American motives in the minds of our foreign allies.

Archibald MacLeish, former Librarian of Congress, also scored U.S. policymakers who have grown impatient with world opinion and who would prefer to ignore it.

MacLeish and Assistant Secretary of State Harlan Cleveland were principal speakers at the opening session of the 17th Triennial Congress of the International Publishers Association, meeting at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Book and music publishers from 28 nations are attending the week-long conference. It is the first held in the United States in the 70 years of the



ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

HARLAN CLEVELAND

association's existence. The congress last met in Barcelona in 1962.

MacLeish suggested that

the world's concept of the United States grew out of actions in World War I, when "we believed too much in hu-

manity and such abstractions, in international law and international organizations and the possibility of universal peace."

The poet said that through World War II and 20 years of the ensuing Cold War, the conception was much the same.

"The picture changed first, or almost changed, at the Bay of Pigs," MacLeish said. "It changed four years later (when) we bombed North Viet-Nam and we occupied Santo Domingo with American troops.

"In both cases, of course, we explained our actions as preventive . . . but in both cases our explanations were overshadowed by our acts.

"What the world saw was the exercise of power: the use of American troops for the first time since the old, bad days of gunboat diplomacy to impose our will on a Latin American country; the use of American bombers against a nation with which we were not at war."

MacLeish said that "with that spectacle the feel of America in the world's mind began to change. It is still changing. And not abroad alone but here as well."

He cited the teach-ins in the Nation's universities as evidence of this change in the feel of America.

The poet said that "there are distinguished and influential men in the United States who think we have concerned ourselves too often and too long with those opinions (of the rest of the world)."

"But it is one thing," Mac-

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Leish said, "to tell the people of the United States that they should think less about their images and another thing altogether to tell them that the opinions of mankind can be ignored."

"The question now is not whether we ought to be indifferent to the opinions of mankind but whether in fact we are."

The 73-year-old poet suggested that the United States is not changed, "though it is possible.

"If you look closely and listen well (there is) a human warmth, a human meaning, which nothing has killed in almost 200 years and which nothing is likely to kill."

Cleveland, assistant secretary for international organization affairs, officially welcomed the 900 delegates with a brief restatement of the diversity of American life, especially in its big cities.

Cleveland directed one pointed remark to the current

international concern over recent American actions:

"Because we believe in independence for others," the State Department official said, "we find we have to be rather practical about the actions that the defense of freedom may require from day to day in one region or another of a turbulent world."

The congress will split today into four working sessions, including discussions of the pirating of editions from one country to another and the proposed revision of United States copyright laws.